

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising a first configuration and second configuration, said first configuration characterized by a body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, and a distal end, which is adapted to be inserted into a bone, said body having an outer peripheral wall extending substantially completely about said longitudinal axis and defining an inner lumen, said body including a plurality of spaced slits disposed about said outer peripheral wall, each of said slits having a length, wherein a distance x between two adjacent slits at a first location along the length of each of the slits is smaller than a distance y between said two adjacent slits at a second location along the length of each of the slits; each of said slits extending substantially axially and defining ribs therebetween, each of said ribs comprising a fixed proximal end, an intermediate section and a fixed distal end, and said second configuration characterized by ~~a portion~~ the intermediate section of said outer peripheral wall being radially enlarged relative to said longitudinal axis such that said apparatus has a larger cross-section in said second configuration than in said first configuration at said portion.

2. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said slits each comprise an end, said first location being proximate to an end of each of the adjacent slits and the second location being in a middle region of each of the adjacent slits.

3. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said slits further comprises an angled surface at an end thereof.

4. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said slits further comprises an angled surface at each end thereof, each of said angled surfaces extending depthwise into a wall forming said body.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said body comprises a generally cylindrical body, and said peripheral wall comprises an outer circumferential wall.

6. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits are generally parallel to said longitudinal axis.

7. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits each lie at an acute angle relative to said longitudinal axis.

8. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein said acute angle is between 0 and 45 degrees.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits comprises at least six slits disposed about the circumference of said outer peripheral wall.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, said bone having a bone surface, comprising a body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, and a distal end, which is adapted to be inserted into a bone such that the proximal end remains within said bone and below the bone surface, said body having an outer peripheral wall extending substantially completely about said longitudinal axis and defining an inner lumen, said body including a plurality of spaced slits extending substantially axially and longitudinally disposed about said outer peripheral wall, each of said slits having a length and an angled surface at an end thereof, extending depthwise into a wall forming said body and each slit defining ribs therebetween, each of said ribs comprising a fixed proximal end, an intermediate section, and a fixed distal end.

12. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein each of said slits has an angled surface at each end thereof, extending depthwise into said wall.

13-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein when said body is placed in compression, regions of said outer wall between adjacent ones of said spaced slits expand radially to extend into adjacent bone.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a suture retaining feature such that a suture may be connected with said apparatus to connect tissue to said bone.

26. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising a first configuration and second configuration, said first configuration characterized by a body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, and a distal end, which is adapted to be inserted into a bone, said body having an outer peripheral wall extending substantially completely about said longitudinal axis and defining an inner lumen, said body including a plurality of spaced slits disposed about said outer peripheral wall, each of said slits extending axially and defining ribs therebetween, each of said ribs comprising a fixed proximal end, an intermediate section, and a fixed distal end, and said second configuration characterized by the intermediate section expanding radially outward such that said apparatus has a larger cross-section in said second configuration than in said first configuration wherein said apparatus further comprises a laterally disposed suture hole for receiving a suture.

27. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 26, wherein each of said slits further comprises an angled surface at an end thereof.

28. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 27, further comprising each of said angled surfaces extending depthwise into a wall forming said body.

29. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 26, wherein said plurality of spaced slits each lie at an acute angel relative to said longitudinal axis.

30. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 30, wherein said acute angle is between 0 and 45 degrees.

31. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 26, wherein said ribs are operable to expand radially and extend into adjacent bone upon said body being placed in compression.